

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

The State Board of Agriculture on Wednesday, August 24, approved the expansion of the Middlesex/Union counties quarantine zone. The amendment to the quarantine rule also received the approval of the Governor's Office.

Survey work continued this week to determine the number of additional trees to be removed as a result of expanding the quarantine zone. The expansion became necessary after the finding of five additional infested trees in late-July/early-August. To date, more than 8,100 trees have been removed in the Middlesex County towns of Carteret and Woodbridge and the Union county towns of Rahway and Linden.

A live adult female Asian longhorned beetle was found in connection with the additional infested trees this week. New Jersey ALB Program Director Barry Emens located the insect on a nighttime inspection of one of the five new infested trees. Emens found the beetle chewing into the bark of the tree in preparation for laying eggs.

The new infested trees, which include maples, birches and elms, are in the southeast section of Linden. Because they all had egg sites but no exit holes, the zone expansion was by 1/8 of a mile. The expansion does not take the quarantine zone into any new municipalities. The total size of the expanded zone is approximately 16.5 square miles.

One tree that had old eggs sites dating back to last year has been taken down. The four infested trees still standing will be taken down after the first hard frost to avoid dispersing any adult beetles that may be in them to other trees.

Jersey City/Hoboken Quarantine Area

A total of seven personnel are continuing survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City-Hoboken quarantine area. Some personnel also have been assisting the Middlesex/Union team due to the five new tree finds. As of August 14, a total of 2,520 trees have been surveyed in 2005 with no signs of the ALB detected. In addition, 893 trees have been treated this year with imidacloprid.